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HARTFORD OFFICE FOR YOUTH SERVICES RECEIVES IMPORTANT GRANT

---NEWS RELEASE---

(October 1, 2008)---Mayor Eddie A. Perez congratulates The Hartford Office for Youth Services (HOYS) for receiving a \$200,000 grant jointly from the Department of Children and Families and the Court Support Services Division of Judicial Court to operate the Hartford Juvenile Review Board (JRB). The goal is to divert juvenile offenders from the formal justice system. The Office has selected the Village for Families & Children, Inc. as its main community-based organization partner to provide the direct case management services to the JRB youth.

The Hartford JRB will consist of two citywide panels of nine members representing key-stakeholder partners (e.g. HPD, HPS, DCF) and community representatives (parents, local businesses, faith leaders, NRZs) who will review up to 300 cases annually.

Mayor Perez says, "Helping to put young people on a positive and successful path so that they will become productive residents and contribute to the future growth of our city is a top priority of this administration. The commitment of this group is vital and we are truly grateful for their dedication. I am confident that under Enid's leadership our young people will benefit and prosper."

"The Hartford JRB represents will be embedded into a systemic, city-wide plan for early intervention and diversion efforts in Hartford to make sure our youth are reached early," said Enid Rey, Director of the Office for Youth Services.

The JRB provides juvenile offenders, who admit their guilt, an opportunity to avoid going to Juvenile Court by being part of a process where they face the victim harmed, their parent(s)/guardian, a group of volunteer community members, and law enforcement officials. The JRB focuses on assisting the juvenile offender to: understand how their behavior harmed the victim and the community; acknowledge that their behavior was directly harmful to others; and take responsibility to repair the harm, through either direct or indirect action on the part of the offender. Additionally, the JRB provides support and assistance to youths to develop the competencies that will enable them to effect necessary changes in their behavior to avoid re-offending in the future.

To learn more about the Hartford JRB or to be part of this effort by serving on the JRB Review Panel Members contact the Hartford Office for Youth Services at (860) 757-9880. Applications for JRB Review Panel Members can be obtained at the Office for Youth Services or completed on-line at www.hartford.gov.